

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 and 7-17 are pending in this application, of which Claims 1 and 15-17 are in independent form. Claims 15-17 have been rewritten in independent form. In addition, Claim 6 has been canceled, and its recitations have been incorporated into Claim 1. A corresponding change has been made to the dependency of Claim 7. Claims 18-21 also have been canceled. All these actions are taken without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter.

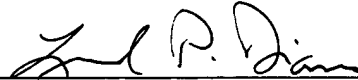
Applicant notes with appreciation the indication that Claims 6, 7 and 15-17 would be allowable if rewritten so as not to depend from a rejected claim, and with no change in scope. In view of the amendments shown above, Claims 1 and 15-17 are all believed to be in condition for allowance.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Leonard P. Diana", is written over a horizontal line.

Leonard P. Diana
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 29,296

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

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